

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #86

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:7-23

Sermon Date: May 27, 2007

“Questo è un simbolo.”

My Father-in-Law died three years ago, yet I can still vividly remember his presence at the head of his dining room table. In addition to the delicious and plentiful pasta, sauce, meats, bread, wine, and so on, mealtimes in a traditional Italian home are also full of emotion and symbolism, and serve an important function in preserving family ties.

When saying the blessing as the meal began, he would often hold up some wine (which he made himself) and recount some portion of the story of the last supper. It was a little hard to decipher his mix of Italian and English. One word I often heard was “Simbolo.” As I got to know him over the years, we were often able to bridge our language barrier with symbols. “Questo è un simbolo,” he would say, pointing out some object’s symbolic meaning.

My Father-in-Law’s use of symbols reminds me of Jesus. As we start this study, let’s listen with fresh ears & hearts to the story of how Jesus held up the bread, and then the wine, and taught us their symbolic meaning. Communion helps us experience Christ’s presence, remember his sacrifice, and preserve our family ties as his church.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.</p> <p>⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."</p> <p>⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.</p> <p>¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."</p> <p>¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.</p> <p>¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."</p> <p>¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."</p> <p>¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."</p> <p>²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." ²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Come Closer:

4. Christ instituted two lasting ordinances (or sacraments) to be observed by the church. The first is baptism, which each believer is to do once. The second is the Lord's Supper or "communion," which we are to observe regularly.

a. What kinds of communion traditions have you participated in? How have these impacted you? In what ways have they drawn you closer to Christ and reminded you of his sacrifice for you?

b. What are some things symbolized by the Lord's Supper? List as many things you can think of.

5. Lk 22:20 refers to the cup as the "new covenant" in Jesus' blood.

a. What were some of the "old" covenants? (See Gen 2:16; 9:11,16; 12:2-3; Exo 19:5; 2 Sam 7:16)

b. What is the new covenant? (Jer 31:31-34; Heb 8:8-13, 9:11-15)

c. How are the old and new covenants different?

d. How has the new covenant affected your life?

6. There is much foreshadowing leading up to the last supper and what it represents.

a. How did the old covenants pave the way for the new covenant?

b. How does the symbolism of the Passover meal (such as the unleavened bread and the sacrifice of a lamb) foreshadow the symbolism of the last supper and its elements?

c. How did the Old Testament prophecies point toward this communion meal and the new covenant it represents? (Isa 61:8, Jer 31:31-34, Mal 3:1)

d. How was the importance and meaning of communion foreshadowed by Jesus' prophetic instructions to Peter and John about the man who would lead them to the upper room?

7. What was Jesus referring to in verse 16? When will he eat with his friends again? (Consider Mt 26:29, 1 Cor 11:26, Rev 3:20, Rev 19:9)

8. How can you apply what you've learned in this study? What ways can you think of to more effectively remember Jesus and his sacrifice as you participate in communion?

Food for Thought: When I sat down to complete this study, I got some bread and grape juice and ate them while I read the various accounts of the last supper (Mt 26:17-30, Mk 14:12-26, Lk 22:7-20, 1 Cor 11:17-26). It was a powerful way to experience communion and enter into the biblical narrative more personally. Consider doing something similar as a way to close your time of study (personally or with your small group). Another communion opportunity you'll have will be this coming Sunday, which is our monthly communion Sunday.

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In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*